

opening 111 and a deterioration in appearance of the case 1.

As shown in FIGS. 1 and 28, the display 3 is pivotally fixed to the case 1 through the hinges 59 disposed in the leg portions 3a. For example, near the left hinge 59, an opening/closing switch 122 is arranged. The switch 122 serves to turn off the power supply to the display 3 when the display 3 is closed (when the display 3 is not used), and to turn on the power supply when the display 3 is set upright.

More specifically, the hinge 59 includes an L-shaped base plate 123 fixed to the upper case 1a, and a shaft 124 extending through a through hole formed in a vertical wall 123a of the base plate 123. A pair of flange portions 125 are formed on the shaft 124 to clamp the vertical wall 123a from both sides, and compressed disk springs (not shown) are inserted between the flange portions 125 and the vertical wall 123a. A horizontal wall of the base plate 123 is fixed to a fixing base 127 constituted by a recess portion formed in a rearmost portion of the upper surface of the upper case 1a to extend in the direction of width. The shaft 124 is cantilevered by the base plate 123 and extends therefrom into the case 1 in an almost horizontal direction. The shafts 124 of the pair of hinges 59 are coupled to a main body 128 of the display 3 through brackets 129 to support the display 3 so as to allow the display 3 to be freely opened/closed. Hinge covers 130 cover the fixing bases 127 and the base plates 123, and leg covers 138 of the display 3 cover the brackets 129.

Since the devices are mounted in the case 1 at a high density, and the display 3 has a low profile, the space ensured for the base plate 123 and its peripheral portion is small. Hence, it is difficult to fix the opening/closing switch 122 in this space.

For this reason, as shown in FIGS. 1, 28, and 29, the upper case 1a has an elongated projection 131 extending from the rear end portion of the upper case 1 and located between the pair of leg portions 3a of the display 3. The distal end portion of the shaft 124 of each hinge 59 extends into the space in the projection 131 through the leg portion 3a. A cam 132 is fixed to the distal end of each shaft 124 through a support rod 125 to be freely pivoted together with the shaft 124. L-shaped support base plates 150 are disposed in the space in the projection 131 and are fastened to the inner surface of the upper case 1a with screws. Each support base plate 150 has a first vertical wall 150a adjacent/opposite to a corresponding one of the leg portions 3a of the display 3, and a second vertical wall 150b slightly spaced apart from the first vertical wall 150a toward the other hinge side. An opening/closing switch 122 having an armature 133 is fastened to the second vertical wall 150b with a screw. A through hole is formed in the first vertical wall 150a, and the distal end portion of the shaft 124 extends through the through hole. The cam 132 is located adjacent/opposite to the armature 133 of the opening/closing switch 122 and is pivoted upon interlocking with a pivot operation of the shaft 124, i.e., an opening/closing operation of the display 3, thereby ON/OFF-controlling the switch 122.

According to the above-described arrangement, the opening/closing switch 122 can be arranged by using the space in the projection 131 formed on the upper case 1a. In addition, the distal end portion of the shaft 124 of each hinge 59 extends through the through hole formed in the first vertical wall 150a of the support base plate 150 to be positioned at a predetermined position with

respect to the switch 122. Therefore, the cam 132 can be held at an accurate position with respect to the armature 133 of the switch 122, and can accurately operate the switch 122 upon interlocking with an opening/closing operation of the display 3.

The present invention is not limited to the above-described embodiment. Various changes and modifications can be made within the spirit and scope of the invention. For example, the present invention is not limited to a portable computer but may be applied to other compact electronic devices such as a wordprocessor.

Additional advantages and modifications will readily occur to those skilled in the art. Therefore, the invention in its broader aspects is not limited to the specific details, and representative devices, shown and described herein. Accordingly, various modifications may be made without departing from the spirit or scope of the general inventive concept as defined by the appended claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. An electronic device comprising:

a main body having an upper surface and a stepped portion formed in a front portion of the upper surface, the stepped portion having a bottom surface lower in level than the upper surface;

a display arranged on the main body and rotatable between a closed position where the display covers the upper surface and the stepped portion, and an opened position where the upper surface and the stepped portion are exposed;

a keyboard removably placed in the stepped portion so that the keyboard is capable of being used when removed from the stepped portion;

a circuit board arranged in the main body to oppose the upper surface, said circuit board having a holding portion for detachably holding an electronic component;

an extensible cord electrically connecting the keyboard to the circuit board; and

wherein the main body has an opening formed in the bottom surface to allow access to the holding portion, and a lid detachably disposed on the bottom surface to close the opening, and the keyboard and the lid having storing portions for storing the cord when the keyboard is placed in the stepped portion.

2. A device according to claim 1, wherein said holding portion comprises a socket which is fixed to said circuit board and switchable between a lock position where the electronic component is locked, and a release position where the electronic component is allowed to be attached to and detached from the socket.

3. A device according to claim 1, wherein said circuit board comprises a connector arranged at a position opposite to the opening, and a card-like electronic part detachably connected to the connector.

4. A device according to the claim 1, wherein said cord has a curled portion.

5. A device according to claim 4, wherein said storing portions include recesses formed between the keyboard and the lid, respectively, to define a storing space when the keyboard is placed in the stepped portion.

6. An electronic device comprising:

a main body having an upper surface and a stepped portion formed in a front portion of the upper surface, the stepped portion having a bottom surface lower in level than the upper surface;